

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12

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SUBJECT: OECD/DAC CONSULTATION ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: ROME 8419

SUMMARY: OECD/DAC CONSULTATION GROUP HELD SECOND MEETING
EVENING OF JUNE 17 TO DISCUSS OFFICERS OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL,
AND PLANS FOR CONDUCT OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION. END SUMMARY

1. FRENCH CHAIRMAN OF CONSULTATION GROUP REPORTED JUNE 17
THAT GROUP 77 WAS AMENABLE TO DEVELOPED COUNTRY RAPPORTEUR
FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SESSION. THERE WILL BE THREE VICE-
CHAIRMEN, FROM ASIA, LATIN AMERICA, AND SOCIALIST BLOC.

2. GROUP 77 IS THINKING OF SUGGESTING ORGANIZATION OF LIAISON
UNIT OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (2 FROM EACH REGIONAL AREA)
WITH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT. OECD/DAC CONSULTATION
GROUP FAVORS INSTEAD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HANNAH CONTINUING TO
CONVENE ALL PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TO BRIEF THEM, PREFERABLY
INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES NOT MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
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IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE KEPT INFORMED.

3. GROUP 77 INTENDS TO RAISE ISSUES ABOUT RULES OF PROCEDURE THAT MAY COMPLICATE MEETING. OECD/DAC GROUP AGREES THAT RULES OF PROCEDURE WERE COPIED FROM ORGANIZATIONS GREATLY DIFFERENT FROM WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. INSTEAD OF CALLING FOR THREE MEETINGS PER BIENNium, THERE SHOULD BE AT LEAST ONE MEETING A YEAR. RULES ON VOTING AND CLOSURE OF DEBATE ALSO APPEAR OVERLY COMPLICATED. TO AVOID ENCUMBERING MINISTERIAL LEVEL WITH RULES OF PROCEDURE, OECD/DAC GROUP BELIEVES IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO REFER THESE TO COMMITTEE, AND POSSIBLY TO DEFER COMPLETION UNTIL BETWEEN SESSIONS OF COUNCIL, AFTER COUNCIL HAS ESTABLISHED ITS OWN PATTERN OF MEETING.

4. OECD/DAC GROUP WAS MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT MEETING PROCEDURES DURING MINISTERIAL PERIOD. IF NORMAL SPEECH INTERVENTIONS ARE PERMITTED ALL OF TIME WOULD BE USED FOR ROUTINE SPEECHES. CANADIAN AMBASSADOR URGED THAT PROCEDURE SIMILAR TO COMMON-WEALTH MINISTERIAL MEETINGS BE FOLLOWED, IN WHICH ONE OR TWO MINISTERS WOULD PRESENT AN ISSUE AND ALTERNATIVE IDEAS, AND OTHERS WOULD DISCUSS IN FREE CONVERSATION. HE HAS SUGGESTED THIS TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT. OPINION DIFFERED AS TO WHETHER SECOND-LEVEL SHOULD PROCEED TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF ITEM 7 (PROGRAM OF WORK), BUT MOST SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT SOME PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION WAS NECESSARY TO DISPOSE OF SUCH MATTERS AS BUDGETARY QUESTIONS AND TO PREPARE WAY FOR FOCUSED DISCUSSION BY MINISTERIAL LEVEL. AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE ASKED HOW THEY COULD BRIEF THEIR MINISTER TUESDAY EVENING IF THERE HAD BEEN NO MEANINGFUL SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HANNAH IS CONVENING MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FRIDAY, JUNE 20, AT 9:30 AM. (ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO HOLD MEETING WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SINCE HANNAH WILL BE ABSENT THURSDAY, BUT DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AZIZ AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ADVISED THAT THIS WAS KEY TIME IN CONSIDERATION OF CENTRAL FAO COUNCIL QUESTION OF BUDGET LEVEL, AND MEETING WAS POSTPONED TO FRIDAY. VOLPE

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